



News Release

**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Kansas City District

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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers offers water safety tips

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers urges recreation seekers to follow safety tips while enjoying water-based activities over the Labor Day weekend to lower the risk of accidental death.

Wear your life jacket. Drowning is the nation's second leading cause of accidental death even though it is possible to reduce drowning deaths by wearing a life jacket. About 80 percent of victims in fatal boating accidents aren't wearing life jackets.

Don't drink and boat. About 50 percent of fatal accidents involve alcohol use by the boat operator or passengers. Alcohol intensifies the disorientation caused by being in the water or by water entering the ears—often causing an intoxicated person to swim down instead of up.

Don't overload your boat with people or equipment. About 30 percent of people who die in boating accidents are passengers in overloaded boats.

Know before you go. Get a weather forecast before you head out to a Corps lake this holiday weekend. While underway, observe current conditions and be aware of changing weather patterns.

Leave a float plan. Let friends and family know where you're going, how long you'll be gone and who you're taking with you.

For more information, contact the Kansas City District Public Affairs Office at (816) 389-3486.

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